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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00
SSM-03 HA-05 IO-13 /082 W
----------102960 141614Z /50
O 141507Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7080
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 1344

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, IS, LE
SUBJ: WAFA COMMENTARY ON TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. WAFA'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETIN ON MARCH 13 CARRIES TWO EDITORIALS ON THE MARCH 11 PALESTINIAN ATTACK IN ISRAEL. THE EDITORIALS ACKNOWLEDGE FATAH RESPONSIBILITY, MAKE CLEAR THAT THE MARCH 11 INCIDENT WAS NOT JUST ANOTHER ROUTINE OPERATION, AND SHOW THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NO DOUBT THE ISRAELIS WILL RETALIATE. END SUMMARY.

2. WAFA EDITORIAL:

A. THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF AN EDITORIAL BY WAFA'S POLITICAL EDITOR:

B. BEGIN TEXT: "THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF THE DARING OPERATION EXECUTIED BY THE DEIR YASIN FORCE 80 KMS
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WITHIN THE OCCUPIED HOMELAND WAS TO CONVINCE THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE HOSTILE PART OF IT, THAT PEACE AND STABILITY CANNOT PREVAIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT THE RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S NATIONAL RIGHTS, ABOVE ALL THE RIGHTS TO RETURN, TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR INDEPENDENT NATIONAL STATE OVER THEIR NATIONAL SOIL.

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C. "ALL PRACTICAL STEPS SUBSEQUENT TO THE
RECOGNITION SHOULD NECESSARILY BE IMPLEMENTED
TO ENSURE THE RECOVERY OF THESE RIGHTS AND TO GUARANTEE
THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR 30 YEARS OF
DEPRIVATION.

D. "A SECOND OBJECTIVE WAS TO PLACE THE INTRASIGENT
ISRAELIS, AND ABOVE ALL, THE TERRORIST BEGIN, AUTHOR OF
MONUMENTAL MASSACRES AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE,
BEFORE AN INEVITABLE REALITY: THAT THERE CAN BE NO
SECURITY FOR ISRAEL, NOTWITHSTANDING THE HUGE QUANTITY
OF DESTRUCTIVE US-SUPPLIED WEAPONS IN ITS POSSESSION.

E. "THE DEIR YASIN FORCE HAS SHATTERED THE THEORY
OF SECURE FRONTIERS, WHICH IS LISTED BY ZIONIST LEADERS
AT THE TOP OF THEIRPRIORITIES FOR ISRAELI SECURITY.

F. "THE HEROIC DEIR YASIN FORCE PROVED THE
VULNERABILITY OF THE ZIONIST ENTITY: FOR THE PANIC
WHICH GRIPPED THE ZIONIST AUTHORITIES, AND WHICH LED
TO THE DEATH OF MANY CITIZENS AT THE HANDS OF ISRAELI
POLICE AND TROOPS WHO ARBITRARILY SHOT AT THE BUS, PROVED
THE INTERNAL WEAKNESS OF THIS ENTITY. IT HAS ALSO
PROVED THAT THE SOPHISTICATED ARSENAL PROVIDED BY THE
USA AND OTHERS CAN NEITHER SET UP A COMMUNITY NOR
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ESTABLISH A SYSTEM ABLE TO SUBSIST IN A USURPED LAND.

G. "OBSERVERS ANTICIPATE WIDE-SCALE AND SAVAGE
ISRAELI REPRISALS AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND
REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, WE REAFFIRM THAT NO MILITARY
COUNTER-ATTACK, WHATEVER ITS SCOPE, CAN EVER ELIMINATE
THE FACTS EMPHASIZED BY THE DEIR YASIN FORCE AND WHICH
WILL BE UNDERLINED BY OTHER GROUPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE."
END TEXT.

3. FALASTIN AL-THAWRA EDITORIAL.

A. FOLLOWING IS THE FALASTIN AL-THAWRA EDITORIAL,
AS CARRIED BY WAFA:

B. BEGIN TEXT: "IN ITS WEEKLY EDITORIAL, FALASTIN
AL-THAWRA, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE PLO,EMPHASIZED THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE ECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE
PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION BY THE SOVIET AND GDR LEADERS
DURING ARAFAT'S RECENT VISIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

C. "THE EDITORIAL WENT ON: 'ARAFAT DECLARED TO

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BOTH BREZHNEV AND HOENECKOR THAT "THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION HAD DECIDED TO ESCALATE THE MILITARY STRUGGLE BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS." ZIONISM, LED BY THE TERRORIST MENACHEM BEGIN, WILL DISCOVER THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE PALESTINIANS: ARMED STRUGGLE, IS THEONLY MEANS CAPABLE OF RESTRAINING THE RACISTS AND EXPANSIONISTS IN TEL AVIV.'

D. "THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: 'THE KAMAL ADWAN OPERATION WENT ON FOR MANY HOURS AND STILL GOES ON, IN SPITE OF THE IMMENSE QUANTITIES OF US WEAPONS POSSESSED BY THE ENEMY. AND IN FRONT OF THIS PALESTINIAN HEROISM, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FATAH, CARTER RESPONDS WITH INSULTS, BEGIN FALLS BACK ON HIS US WEAPONARY, AND
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WEIZMANN CUTS SHORT HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON.' (COMMENT: WAFA IN ANOTHER ARTICLE REPORTED ARAFAT HAD RECEIVED CABLES OF SUPPORT ON THE "COMMANDO OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY FATAH. "END COMMENT.)
IT IS ALL PART OF THE OPEN AND CONTINUING BATTLE THAT COMMENCED 30 YEARS AGO, AND NOTHING IS LEFT FOR THE AGENTS OF THE US BUT TO CONFESS THAT WAR AND PEACE ARE IN THE HANDS OF PALESTINE, ITS REVOLUTION, PEOPLE, AND CAUSE AND NOT IN THEIR OWN HANDS.

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E. '"WE KNOW THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARING A MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH LEBANON OR ELSEWHERE EVEN THOUGH THE KAMAL ADWAN OPERATION TOOK PLACE INSIDE OCCUPIED PALESTINE. IN DOING SO, THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFIT FROM SADAT'S SURRENDER TO THE ZIONISTS, AND HIS NEGLECT OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AS WELL AS FROM THE FEEBLENESS OF THE OUTSIDERS WHO HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE.'

F. "THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE KAMAL ADWAN OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISM, AND OF THE POWERFUL CURRENT OPPOSED TO CAPITULATION TO THE US AND ISRAEL REPRESENTED BY THE 'CONFRONTATION AND STEADFASTNESS FRONT'. AFTER THIS OPERATION, THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION WHICH ALONG WITH SYRIA, REPRESENTS THE HEART OF THE FRONT, AWAITS AN ARAB RESPONSE WHICH CAN WITHSTAND AND DEFEAT THE EXPECTED ZIONIST REACTION, WHETHER IN SOUTH LEBANON OR ELSEWHERE." END TEXT.
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4. WAFA ALSO NOTED THAT YASIR ARAFAT HAD ARRIVED IN BEIRUT ON MARCH 11.

5. COMMENTS.

A. WAFA'S ACCOUNTS OF THE TERRORIST INCIDENT CONTAIN THE FIRST ACKNOWLEDGMENT SINCE AT LEAST DECEMBER 1976 OF FATAH RESPONSIBILITY FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS WITHIN ISRAEL. (WAFA FREQUENTLY ATTRIBUTES OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL TO "PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS," HOWEVER.) THE EDITORIALS ALSO SUGGEST THAT THIS OPERATION WAS NOT ROUTINE, BUT WAS THE RESULT OF A DELIBERATE DECISION TO ESCALATE MILITARY ACTIVITIES AGAINST ISRAEL.

B. COMMENTARIES IN WAFA SINCE SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL HAVE PLACED INCREASING EMPHASIS ON MILITARY ACTION AS THE SOLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING PALESTINIAN ENDS. THE MARCH 13 EDITORIALS INDICATE THAT THE DECISION TO UNDERTAKE THE "KAMAL ADWAN OPERATION" WAS RELATED TO THE PLO'S PERCEPTION THAT DIPLOMATIC OPTION WAS NOT NOW OPEN TO THE PALESTINIANS AS A RESULT OF SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, AMERICA'S POSITION ON A MIDDLE EAST

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SETTLEMENT AND ISRAEL'S GROWING INTRANSIGENCE. THE EDITORIALS ALSO INDICATE THAT THE TIMING WAS RELATED TO BEGIN'S PLANNED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

C. THE EDITORIALS SHOW THAT THE PALESTINIANS EXPECT ISRAELI RETALIATION AND PLAN TO EXPLOIT IT FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.
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